

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for extracting slurry by extracting slurry from an agitation vessel having a bottom face and a side wall and housing the slurry, characterized in that the slurry is extracted from an open end of a slurry extraction tube provided at the side wall of the agitation vessel;

wherein the open end of the slurry extraction tube protrudes from the side wall of the agitation vessel in a direction toward an interior of the agitation vessel; and

wherein the slurry flows in the agitation vessel, and a normal line direction of a surface of the open end of the slurry extraction tube is in a direction of an angle with respect to a downstream direction of a flow of the slurry of 0° or more and less than 90°.

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended): The method for extracting slurry as claimed in claim-~~2~~ 1, wherein the slurry flows in the agitation vessel, and a normal line direction of a surface of the open end of the slurry extraction tube is in a direction of an angle with respect to a downstream direction of a flow of the slurry of from 0° to 60°.

5. (currently amended): The method for extracting slurry as claimed in claim-~~2~~ 1, wherein the slurry flows in the agitation vessel, and a normal line direction of a surface of the

open end of the slurry extraction tube is in a direction of an angle with respect to a downstream direction of a flow of the slurry of 0° or more and less than 30° .

6. (original): The method for extracting slurry as claimed in claim 1, wherein the slurry is extracted through a decompression valve to a vessel under a pressure lower than the agitation vessel.

7. (original): The method for extracting slurry as claimed in claim 1, wherein the slurry is extracted by aspirating with a pump.

8. (original): The method for extracting slurry as claimed in claim 1, wherein the slurry comprises terephthalic acid and a liquid.

9. (original): The method for extracting slurry as claimed in claim 8, wherein the terephthalic acid is obtained through hydrolysis of dimethyl terephthalate.